

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 208640

FOL RPT TEHRAN 7815 SENT ACTION SECSTATE AUG 16, 1978

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 7815

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: SHUM
SUBJ: WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION, GENEVA, AUGUST 14-25, 1978

REF: STATE 204786

1. I PRESENTED AIDE MEMOIRE (REFTEL) TO DEPUTY MINISTER OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS JAFAR NADIM ON AUGUST 16. NADIM STATED THAT
THE IRANIAN DELEGATION IS UNDER FIRM INSTRUCTIONS TO USE ITS
EFFORTS SO THAT THE ISSUE WILL NOT BE DISCUSSED NOR COME TO A
VOTE. HE NOTED THAT THIS ISSUE IS PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT FOR
IRAN BECAUSE OF ITS FAVORABLE VOTE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
AT THAT TIME, IRAN'S DELEGATE TO THE THIRD COMMITTEE HAD GONE
ALONG WITH THE RESOLUTION AND THE DELEGATION, THEREFORE, HAD
NO CHOICE BUT TO VOTE IN FAVOR IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
NADIM REMINDED ME THAT PERM REP HOVEYDA HAD GIVEN A CAREFUL
EXPLANATION OF THE VOTE. THE SHAH, HE SAID, WAS FURIOUS WHEN
HE WAS INFORMED OF THE ACTION IN THE THIRD COMMITTEE AND HAD
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PERSONALLY INSTRUCTED THAT AN EXPLANATION OF VOTE BE
GIVEN.

2. HOWEVER, NADIM SAID, IF A RESOLUTION WERE PRESSED
TO A VOTE-- WHICH HE DID NOT BELIEVE LIKELY--IRAN WOULD
FIND IT NECESSARY, RELUCTANTLY, TO VOTE IN FAVOR. I
STRESSED TO HIM THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF THIS MATTER AND

THE IMPACT THAT SUCH A VOTE COULD HAVE IN THE U.S.
I URGED HIM, AS A MINIMUM, TO CONSIDER ABSTAINING OR
NOT BEING PRESENT FOR THE VOTE. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD
REPORT OUR CONVERSATION TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND
AGREED TO RESTUDY THE MATTER.

3. COMMENT: A VOTE AGAINST A RESOLUTION, OR EVEN AN
ABSTENTION, WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR THE GOI IN VIEW OF
ITS DESIRE TO BE IN TUNE WITH THE ARAB STATES AND IN
LIGHT OF ITS RECORD ON THE ISSUE TO DATE. ALSO, THE
GOVERNMENT IS NOW BESET WITH SERIOUS AGITATION FROM
CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS, ONE OF WHOSE PRINCIPAL PLANKS
IS STRIDENT ANTI-ZIONISM. THE GOVERNMENT MAY WELL NOT
WISH TO ADD TO ITS PROBLEMS WITH THESE ELEMENTS.
HOWEVER, IF WE SEE THAT THE ISSUE IS LIKELY TO GO TO A
VOTE, PLEASE INFORM US SOONEST SO THAT WE CAN WEIGH
IN AGAIN. NAAS
UNQUOTE VANCE

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